

Dear Chairman Sears,

I am writing to express my support for S.6 as it was just amended by the House Judiciary Committee. I believe it is an important step for Vermont to move fully beyond the use of deceptive interrogation tactics as is contemplated by the bill and the committee's discussions.

I know there has been consideration of the ages and the elements for overcoming a statement's presumed inadmissibility. I am writing to express my support for maintaining the bar on use against children under 18 and the higher standards of proof for voluntariness and reliability. Hopefully, this statutory provision will not be necessary as we will move fully beyond the use of these tactics. But, in the event they are used, I am confident in our law enforcements and prosecutors' abilities to demonstrate that the statements we seek to introduce in court have no issue in clearing this hurdle.

It is incumbent on us to ensure the evidence we bring against someone is reliable prior to seeking to take their liberty. The burden in this bill will only ensure we continue to meet the high standard we already operate under.

Let me know if I can be of any other assistance as you consider this legislation.

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(she/her pronouns)